

MLA In-Text Citations

Parenthetical Citations

The purpose of citations is to give the source for specific pieces of information in a research paper. Citing not only gives credit to the source (not giving credit is called plagiarism and contrary to Lakeland's Academic Honesty policy), but allows the reader to find that source and perhaps use it for their own research. Citations in the body of the paper link the reader to the source on the Works Cited page. In MLA format, these citations are enclosed in parenthesis at the end of the sentence. They usually consist of the author's last name and the page number. There is a specific format for in-text citations depending on how the information is quoted.

General Rules:

1. If the information is presented in quotes, cite the (author's last name and page number).
2. If the author's name is used in the sentence, cite the (page number).
3. If an introductory sentence includes the author's name, cite the (page number).
4. If the information is paraphrased using the author's name, cite the (page number).
5. If the information runs longer than four lines of text, use block quotes, that is, indent the margins of the text. Place the citation after the period. (author's last name and page number)
6. If the information has no given author, use an abbreviated title instead. Use italics or underline book titles; use quotes for article titles. (*Architecture of Migration* 16) or ("Architecture of Migration" 16)

Examples:

Simple Sentence Citations:

Name not stated in sentence—
"The stove-house had a doorway and a window opening as well as a vent hole" (Hutslar 14).

Name stated in sentence—
Donald Hutslar noted "The stove-house had a doorway and a window opening as well as a vent hole" (14).

Introductory Sentence Citations:

According to Hutslar, Marco Polo's description of early Russian dwellings corresponded with later European log cabins called stove-houses: The stove-house had a doorway and a window opening as well as a vent hole (14).

Paraphrasing Citations:

Hutslar claims that the design of American pioneer log cabins came from the Northern European tradition of stove-houses (14).



Indented Citations:

Because of the great numbers of Scotch-Irish, a migration wave was generated in the colonies, particularly to the west and south into south-central Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia. Thus, by the third quarter of the eighteenth century, due to the movement of the Scotch-Irish as well as the Germans, log building had become the common constructional mode on the boundaries of colonial settlement. (Hutslar 16)

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Placement

Citations should not interfere with the readability of the research paper. Although one should avoid interrupting the flow of the text, the citation should be placed as close to the cited information as possible.

- For simple quotes or paraphrases, place the parenthetical citation at the end of the sentence. The citation occurs before the final punctuation (like this).
- If the entire paragraph uses cited material from the same source, put the citation after the last sentence of the paragraph inside the final punctuation as above.
- For block quoted material (longer quotes that need to be indented) the citation should be placed after the final punctuation. (like this)

Plagiarism

Students may find themselves confused about what constitutes plagiarism when they are assigned to write a paper that incorporates their own ideas those gathered from other sources. Plagiarists have been sued, lost jobs, and been discredited among their peers.

Intentional plagiarism involves knowingly turning in a paper or information as one's own work when it is not. This includes using another's ideas, specific language or sentence structure, or paraphrasing ideas to imply they are the student's own.

Unintentional plagiarism occurs when students paraphrase or fail to attribute ideas they have taken from other sources thinking they are common knowledge.

The best rule is to cite sources when in doubt. Plagiarism is contrary to Lakeland's Academic Honesty policy and is subject to disciplinary action.

Websites for MLA Citations

MLA Parenthetical Documentation

St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN

<http://leo.stcloudstate.edu/research/mlaparen.html>

Research and Documentation (online version)

Diana Hacker with Barbara Fister (Gustavus Adolphus College). More detailed treatment of exceptions to the general rules.

http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/p04_c08_s1.html

In-Text Citations, the Basics from the OWL at Purdue University:

Basic In-Text Citation Rules:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/02/>

Author-Page Style:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/03/>

MLA In-Text Parenthetical Citations from Duke University

<http://www.lib.duke.edu/libguide/cite/MLA.htm>

MLA Format: In-Text Citation

http://www.english.uiuc.edu/CWS/wworkshop/writer/resources/citation_styles/mla/intext_citation.htm

Websites for Plagiarism

Avoiding Plagiarism from the OWL at Purdue University

A very good discussion and guidelines for avoiding unintentionally plagiarizing someone else's work.

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>

Acceptable and Unacceptable Paraphrasing from Indiana University

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

What is Plagiarism from Georgetown University

<http://gervaseprograms.georgetown.edu/hc/plagiarism.html>

FamousPlagiarists.Com Musicians, writers, politicians, news persons have suffered everything from public humiliation to permanent damage to their careers and their pocketbooks. For a not so humorous look at who has plagiarized and what happened when they were caught, visit <http://famousplagiarists.com/>

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